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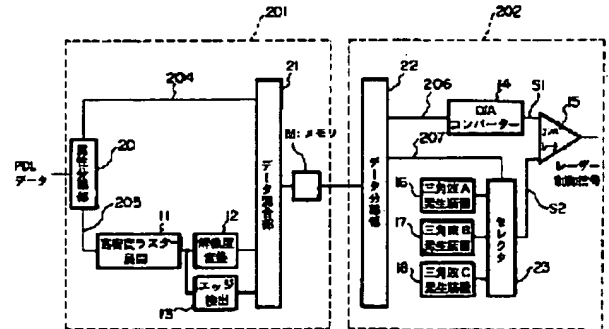
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TITLE : IMAGE PROCESSING UNIT AND
IMAGE FORMING DEVICE



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To store multi-value processing (line graphic) data, its feature information and halftone data in a memory without causing useless areas.

SOLUTION: Halftone data are outputted from an attribute separate section 20 and a resolution conversion section 12 and an edge detection section 13 provide an output of 5-bit density data being a vector picture element and a 3-bit characteristic flag. An identification flag (1-bit) is added to them in a prescribed format at a data mixing section 21 and the result is stored in a memory M. In this case, the halftone data and the vector picture element are stored as 9-bit raster data and the feature flag is stored part of the vector picture element, then no waste is caused in the storage area of the memory M and it is not required to provide separately a memory for the feature flag.

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